

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/865,454

Applicant(s)

UZAWA, SHIGEYUKI

Examiner

Art Unit

Andre' C. Stevenson

2812

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance and Issue Fee Due or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course.

1. ☐ This communication is responsive to ____.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-24 and 39-42.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 26 December 2001 are acceptable.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the CERTIFIED copies of the priority documents have been
1. ☒ received.
2. ☐ received in Application No. (Series Code / Serial Number). ____.
3. ☐ received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: ____.

5. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. & 119(e).

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY to comply with the requirements noted below is set to EXPIRE **THREE MONTHS** FROM THE "DATE MAILED" of this Office Action. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application. Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a).

6. ☐ Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION IS REQUIRED.
7. ☐ Applicant MUST submit NEW FORMAL DRAWINGS
- (a) ☐ because the originally filed drawings were declared by applicant to be informal.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review(PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No. ____.
- (c) ☐ including changes required by the proposed drawing correction filed ____, which has been approved by the examiner.
- (d) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the reverse side of the drawings. The drawings should be filed as a separate paper with a transmittal letter addressed to the Official Draftsperson.

8. ☐ Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Any reply to this letter should include, in the upper right hand corner, the APPLICATION NUMBER (SERIES CODE / SERIAL NUMBER). If applicant has received a Notice of Allowance and Issue Fee Due, the ISSUE BATCH NUMBER and DATE of the NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE should also be included.

Attachment(s)

- 1 ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 3 ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 5 ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449), Paper No. 2.
- 7 ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
- 2 ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 4 ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No. ____.
- 6 ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
- 8 ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
- 9 ☐ Other

Detailed Action

Acknowledgment is made of applicant's claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d). The certified copy has been filed in parent Application No. 09865454, filed on May 29, 2001.

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Steve Warner on October 16, 2003.

Claims 25 through 38 have been canceled.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The prior art fails to teach capturing an image of a mask simulating a wafer image of the mask simulating a wafer image of the mask generating a mask map of information based on the simulating.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1 through 24 and 39 through 42 are allowed.

Reason for Allowance

Claim #1

- A control unit which controls said gas supplier on the basis of outputs from said pressure sensors in such a manner that pressures within the respective first and second housings will attain respective ones of predetermined pressures.

Claim #2

- A control unit which controls said gas supplier on the basis of outputs from said differential-pressure sensors in such a manner that pressures within the respective first and second housings will attain respective ones of predetermined pressures.

Claim #39

- A control unit which controls said gas supplier on the basis of outputs from said pressure sensors in such a manner that pressures within the respective first and second housings will attain respective ones of predetermined pressures.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Andre C. Stevenson whose telephone number is (703) 308 6227. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Niebling, can be reached on (703) 308 3325. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 308 7724.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308 1782. Also, the proceeding numbers can be used to fax information through the Right Fax system;

- (703) 872-9306

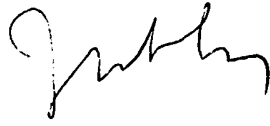
Andre C. Stevenson

Art Unit 2812

10/16/03

Application/Control Number: 09/865,454
Art Unit: 2812

Page 5

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. K. L.", is centered on the page. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "J" and a long, sweeping underline.